[24th September 1955

New rice mills

* 2454 *Q.*—SRI P. RANGASWAMY REDDIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have decided not to issue any licences for starting new rice mills in the State; and

(*b*) if so, why?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) No, Sir, the question is under examination.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Periyaram Sanatorium

* 2455 *Q.*—SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR (on behalf of Sri V. R. Krishna Ayyar) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state whether the Government have sanctioned any grant for buildings and equipment to the Periyaram Sanatorium?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : The Government have sanctioned the payment of a half-grant of Rs. 2,17,900 towards the construction of building required for the Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Periyaram.

No grant towards the purchase of equipment has been sanctioned by this Government to this institution.

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state whether the sanctioned amount has already been paid or not and also whether it is a fact that the sanatorium cannot be properly utilized in the public interest inasmuch as it is lacking in equipment? Will the Government see to it that the equipment grant also is given immediately?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : Government have recommended to the Government of India the grant of Rs. 1,26,000 non-recurring for the payment of amount due to contractors on the purchase of equipment, etc., and the Government of India are giving a non-recurring grant of Rs. 50,000 towards the cost of construction, equipment and for the provision of additional beds to the sanatorium.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : The three questions Nos. 2456, 2457 and 2458 may be taken up together and the Hon. Minister may read the answers one by one.

Hand-pulled and cycle-rickshaws

9.20 a.m. * 2456 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any decision has been taken by the Government to abolish hand-pulled rickshaws in the City of Madras;

(*b*) the number of rickshaws and rickshaw-pullers in the City, and

24th September 1955]

(*c*) whether any alternative employment is proposed to be provided for the rickshaw-pullers?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : (*a*) No, Sir.

(*b*) There are 3,750 hand-pulled rickshaws and 3,591 rickshaw-pullers.

(*c*) This question does not arise at present.

* 2457 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state with reference to the answer given to question No. 589, dated 10th February 1955—

(*a*) the number of cycle-rickshaws registered after 30th September 1954 up-to-date for the year 1955–56;

(*b*) why the seating capacity of the cycle-rickshaws was fit only for a single person with the 20 inches width by inside measurement; and

(*c*) how many cycle-rickshaws were refused registration up-to-date which did not satisfy the specification imposed by the Commissioner of Police in the absence of availability of variable gear for cycle-rickshaws in the market?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : (*a*) One thousand.

(*b*) The seating capacity has been reduced to avoid the carrying of two passengers.

(*c*) None, Sir.

* 2458 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any proposal to abolish rickshaws in the City of Madras by April 1957;

(*b*) if so, the methods by which this process is to be completed, and

(*c*) whether it is to be extended throughout the State?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : (*a*) No, Sir.

(*b*) & (*c*) Do not arise.

SRI K. R. SAMBANDAM : Sir, we have the S.P.C.A. to prevent the use of sick animals and that is the protection with reference to animals; but with regard to human beings there seems to be nobody to champion their cause. Would Government take necessary steps?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : "Champion the cause" in what respect, Sir?

SRI K. R. SAMBANDAM : To prevent hand-pulling of rickshaws.